

Hawaii MARINE

INSIDE	
Katrina Information	A-2
1/3 Hump	A-3
Marine Feature	A-4
New Course of Fire	A-5
Blue Hawaii	B-1
MCCS	B-2
Personality Features	B-3
Movie Reviews	B-5
Word to Pass	B-6
Menu	B-7
Ads	B-8
Football	C-1
Sports Briefs	C-2
The Bottom Line	C-3

1/3 trains for cold temps

Sgt. Joe Lindsay
Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER, BRIDGEPORT, Calif. — “The Marines have landed!”

On Sept. 13, the last wave of slightly more than 900 Marines from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, stationed on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, arrived at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, just outside of Bridgeport, Calif. Temperatures fittingly greeted the K-Bay Marines in the low ‘20s to begin a “trial by ice” in preparation for the Lava Dogs’ upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

Located in the shadows of Yosemite National Park in the heart of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, Bridgeport has become synonymous to Marines who have endured its harsh mountainous terrain and high altitude (6,700 feet at base camp and a training area at 8,000 to 9,000 feet) with one word — cold.

“The cold is the biggest test of character and motivation I’ve ever seen, because only those that are true to the game — the true hard chargers — are going to make it through this training,” said Master Gunnery Sgt. Carlos Craig, 1/3 operations chief, and a native of Buffalo, N.Y., who is making his third trip to Bridgeport.

“Your fingers get so cold, you can barely load your ammo. You want to cough, sneeze and sniffle, but you can’t because you know you’ve got to maintain noise discipline. This is by far the toughest training I’ve experienced in my 26 years in the Marine Corps.”

According to 1/3’s commanding officer, Lt. Col. James Bierman, the training is meant to be tough, but there is also a bigger picture at stake.

“This is probably the closest replication that the Marine Corps can provide for us for the conditions we are going to be facing in

Afghanistan,” said Bierman, a self-described “gypsy” who moved around a lot growing up as the son of a Marine, but who considers Virginia

his home. “The combination of terrain, altitude and weather just makes

See 1/3, A-9



Lance Cpl. Stephen Kwietniak

Marines of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, march to a rally point outside the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif., during continuous field operations this week. 1/3 Marines were inserted into remote areas outside the MCMWTC in Bridgeport, Calif., via CH-53E helicopters assigned to Heavy Marine Helicopter Squadron 361, and by bus to Hawthorne, Nev. Marines of 1/3 are preparing for an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

Lava Dogs prepare minds, bodies for deployment

Sgt. Joe Lindsay
Combat Correspondent

HAWTHORNE, Nev. — Marines from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, based at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, “took to the hills” Saturday for a weeklong training exercise that stretched, intermittently, all the way from the densely forested mountains above Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif., to the rocky and sparsely vegetated high desert region of Hawthorne, Nev.

Marines from all five 1/3 companies: Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Headquarters & Service, and Weapons arrived by helicopter or bus to predesignated drop-off locations, at which point they all experienced a common theme — pain.

“Whether you’re a Marine straight out of SOI (School of Infantry) or a combat tested veteran with years of experience, all Marines know that when you’re in a training environment and you debark off that helo or bus that the first thing your going to experience is a punishing hump (forced march),” said Sgt. Damian Haug, platoon sergeant, 3rd Platoon, Charlie Company, 1/3, and a native of Fargo, N.D.

Indeed, Haug’s words seemed to fit Charlie Company’s situation like a prophecy, as their commanding officer, Capt. Jared Spurlock of Pocatello, Idaho; and company gunnery sergeant, Gunnery Sgt. Paul Davis, of Laurens, S.C.; both Iraq veterans, led the Marines on a blistering pace with full gear



Lance Cpl. Stephen Kwietniak

Marines from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment (1/3), perform a casualty evacuation drill during continuous field operations conducted this week in Bridgeport, Calif., and Hawthorne, Nev.

and weapons that one Marine — Lance Cpl. Brandon Denzmarrs of Makena, Hawaii on the island of Maui, described only half-jokingly as a “death march.”

“That was the hardest humps I’ve ever been on in my life,” said Denzmarrs, a 1/3 assaultman. “Our packs were heavy, the high altitude made it hard to breath, the trail was both dusty and rocky, we were going uphill the entire time, and we never

stopped until we got to our destination. They said it was only three miles, but until the day I die, I will never believe that. The mountains can play tricks on your mind — I guess.”

Which is exactly the reason, according to Spurlock, that 1/3 chose the harsh mountainous environments of Bridgeport

See LAVA DOGS, A-10

Island Marine goes beyond the call

Gunny Sgt. Claudia M. LaMantia
Public Affairs Chief

He had flown in for a conference, but 13 hours later found himself in Katrina’s path.

Master Gunnery Sgt. Louis L. Schumacher was one of approximately 270 who stayed in a New Orleans hotel during the category five force hurricane.

“Louis was in a position to leave. He had a rental car. Instead, he recognized the potential for disaster and decided to stay and help,” said Mitch Tinney, a charter

boat captain from Tennessee who was in town for the weekend.

Schumacher realized how serious the situation was upon checking into the hotel. The front-desk clerk gave him paperwork with emergency procedures, according to the staff noncommissioned officer of Installation Personnel Administration Center, Headquarters Battalion.

The staff and some guests gathered in a conference room to prepare strategies, according to Tinney. They decided to use the pool water to wash and for flushing the toilets. Schumacher offered to help and

became instrumental in establishing a water brigade. “He hauled thirty-five hundred gallons of water to the sixteenth floor from the pool. His hands were split and bleeding, but he didn’t stop ‘til the job was done,” Tinney continued.

As night approached, everyone prepared to settle in for the evening. The guests moved toward the center of the building, away from any windows.

Then, just as he fell asleep, the sound of a window crashing in suddenly woke him.

See SCHUMACHER, A-6



Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

Roughly 33 base departments and organizations chose to participate in the Commander’s Community Aloha Fair and Information Forum, Sept. 13, at the Kahuna’s Community Ballroom.

MCCS hosts Aloha Fair

Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

As a way to welcome and inform new arrivals and their families to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, the Commander’s Community Aloha Fair and Information Forum was held from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Kahuna’s Community Ballroom, Sept. 13.

The event was coordinated and held by Marine Corps Community Services, whose main goal for this fair was to give newcomers to the base the opportunity to see what kind of services and activities are available to them. It also gave them the opportunity to meet key staff personnel of the base, as well as the key personnel of MCCS, said Marcia Kolton, acting marketing director, MCCS.

“This gives the people on base the chance to gain information and ask questions,” said the Brockton, Mass. native. “We always get good feedback from the community who come to these kinds of events.”

According to Kolton, this particular Aloha fair took several months to plan, and is actually a combination of two different fairs that would usually take place aboard the base.

In January, Brig. Gen. George J. Trautman, former commanding general of K-Bay, held a Commanding General’s Information Forum. It was later decided to combine the forum with the Aloha Fair in order to strengthen the intended missions of both events.

Having the base commander and his staff present offered base residents the opportunity to interact with base leadership and program heads in a casual setting to gain information and voice concerns about installation programs and services. More than 300 people attended the first event.

“This fair is really a combination of key military staff on base, combined with the community personnel,” said Kolton. “Combining the two is a really good move seeing

See ALOHA, A-4

NEWS BRIEFS

Base-wide Staff NCO Call

Head to the Staff NCO Club for a base-wide call at 4 p.m.
For more information, call the Staff NCO Club at 254-5481.

IPAC Blood Drive

A blood drive will be held at IPAC, Building 1033, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday. The blood donated will be used to support the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

For more information contact Cpl. Gonzales at 257-3197, ext. 228.

Main Gate Construction Begins Oct. 1

Starting Oct. 1, there will be construction at the Main Gate of Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, that will restrict travel to one lane inbound and one lane outbound. The construction will cause delays in traffic and is scheduled to last throughout the month of October. All personnel with Department of Defense decals on their vehicles are encouraged to use the Mokapu gate in Kailua to access the base during peak traffic hours in the morning and afternoon.

Questions about the construction can be directed to Steve Butala at 257-2727 ext. 258, and for questions after working hours, call 257-8467.

Volunteers Needed to Paint Kailua Library

The Kailua Library staff is requesting Marine Corps volunteers to help repaint the exterior of the library in downtown Kailua. A painting day has been set for Oct. 13, beginning at 8 a.m. The library is located at 239 Kuulei Rd., between Kailua Elementary and the Kailua Police Station. The State of Hawaii is providing paint and materials; the “Friends of the Library” will provide food, water and sodas.

Volunteers should contact Sandra Akana, the Kailua librarian, at 266-9914, ext. 0.

Hawaii Military COLA Survey

All military, Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service and National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration uniform service personnel stationed in the state of Hawaii are encouraged to complete a military Cost of Living Allowance survey, sponsored by U.S. Pacific Command, until the end of this month.

The Office of the Secretary of Defense requires Headquarters Pacific Command to conduct the survey once every three years to adjust COLA rates for Hawaii uniform service personnel. Service members will have the opportunity to complete the survey over the Internet. Accuracy in completing the survey is critical to the COLA determination process. The Living Pattern survey is available online through Friday at www.perdiem.osd.mil/oscola/lps/hawaii.

Point of contact at HQ USPACOM is Eddie Fowler at 477-1396 or e-mail: eddie.fowler@pacom.mil.

HI 5¢ Redemption Site

HI 5¢ redemption services are available from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m every Friday in the parking lot across from the PX Annex.

For more information, call Jim Sibert, Base Recycling at 257-4300.

Important Phone Numbers

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110

Correction

In last week's edition of Hawaii Marine in the photograph on A4 that ran with the “Marine spouses learn Corps way,” Darlene Barnhart was incorrectly identified as Sandra M. Meyers.

Civil relief will not dilute war capability

Army Sgt. Sara Wood
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military is fully capable of fulfilling all its responsibilities, including homeland defense and relief efforts, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in a Pentagon news briefing Tuesday.

After deploying more than 50,000 National Guard troops to help with Hurricane Katrina recovery, Army Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, reported that there were still hundreds of thousands of troops available for

deployment, Rumsfeld said.

The active-duty force also has capabilities to support relief efforts and sustain the missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, he said.

“You can’t do everything in the world, but you can do the things that you’re organized and trained and equipped to do,” Rumsfeld said.

Rebalancing the Army has caused a reliance on National Guard troops for the war in Iraq, Myers said, adding that the next rotation there will use more active-duty forces. Also, the number of National Guard tank and artillery units is being reduced, leaving

room for units that are more relevant to homeland defense, he said.

Myers noted that reenlistment and morale in the National Guard is at an all-time high, increasing readiness.

“We have a Guard force that has never been more ready to support whatever mission the country calls upon it for,” he said. “This is a very effective force; they like to be called upon.”

In preparation for the landfall of Hurricane Rita, the Defense Department is taking planning measures, anticipating the needs of state and local authorities, Myers said.



Katrina reroutes military post

MARADMIN 415/05
Marine Forces Reserve

Effective immediately, redirect all correspondence for MarForRes and MarForRes MSC's as indicated below:

COMMARFORRES:
CG, MARCORMOBCOM,
ATTN: COMMARFORRES
15303 Andrews Road
KANSAS CITY, MO 64147

CG, 4TH MARDIV:
I&I 2D BN 14TH MARINES
ATTN: 4TH MARDIV
312 Marine Forces Drive
Grand Prairie, TX 75051

CG, 4TH MAW:
CO, MAG-42
ATTN: 4TH MAW
1000 Halsey Ave.
Marietta, GA 30060-5099

CG, 4TH FSSG:
CO H&S BN, 4TH FSSG
ATTN: 4TH FSSG
1210 Naval Forces Court
Marietta, GA 30069

Marines and civilians with home addresses within the affected areas are directed to change their mailing address to their temporary address using www.usps.gov or by calling (800) 275-8777. This will remain in effect until further instructed.

For more information, call Capt. S. Shinskie at DSN 894-3301 or (816) 843-3301.



Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

Lance Cpl. Carlo Arevalo, postal clerk, Headquarters Battalion, places mail destined for units overseas into carriage bags. Mail postmarked for Hurricane Katrina disaster areas will be redirected.

COMMENTARY

Marine knows she won't be left behind

Gunny Sgt. Claudia M. LaMantia
Public Affairs Chief

Approximately 88,021 U.S. service members have not returned to America after being killed in action, classified as missing in action or after becoming prisoners of war.

Most are from World War II and, of those,

about 35,000 won't be returning because they were lost at sea or buried in sunken vessels, according to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

Those numbers seem astronomical to me, and after two tours in Iraq, I could not fathom being left behind. There was no doubt

that I would come home either dead or alive. The last 18 years in this green machine taught me that.

But it's disheartening to see the numbers of Americans we left behind. For me, asking why they are not home yet is fruitless right now. We should focus on bringing them home.

In my line of work, I've met many veterans, but there is one gentleman in particular who impressed me with his plight. Jesse Baker, “Chief,” as everyone calls him, is passionate about keeping the memory of POWs and MIAs alive so that they may come home. He wears a vest and amid numerous patches is a slightly aged Bronze Star. The slender Texan served 29 years in the Air Force and completed tours in both Korea and Vietnam.

Born about 72 years ago he's still full of life and passion. He begins to tell me how it was for him to come home back then. Returning from Vietnam, his first stop was to a disturbingly angry reception in California. While talking, he looks down and shakes his head from side to side. But he quickly continued on to tell me about his reception in Texas where things were the opposite and everyone was happy to see him.

But, according to his recollection, it would take almost two decades for the



Air Force Staff Sgt. Charity Barrett

Veterans from the Hawaii Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Thomas Tanaka (left) and Leonard Kaae participate in a POW/MIA Recognition Day wreath ceremony, Sept. 16. The ceremony was part of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, Hickam AFB, commemoration of National POW/MIA Recognition Day at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

See POW, A-4

Weekend weather outlook

Today



Day — mostly cloudy; numerous morning showers, then scattered afternoon showers with isolated thunderstorms; northeasterly winds, 10 mph; 70 percent chance of rain

Night — mostly cloudy with scattered showers; heavy rain showers possible in the evening; easterly winds, 10 mph; 50 percent chance of rain

High — 83 Low — 74

Saturday



Day — mostly cloudy with scattered showers; northeasterly winds, 10 mph; 50 percent chance of rain

Night — mostly cloudy with scattered showers; easterly winds, 10 mph; 50 percent chance of rain

High — 83 Low — 73

Sunday



Day — partly to mostly cloudy skies with scattered showers; easterly winds; 10 to 15 mph; 40 percent chance of rain

Night — Mostly cloudy with scattered showers; easterly winds, 10 mph; 50 percent chance of rain

High — 83 Low — 75

Hawaii MARINE

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Base Sergeant Major	Sgt. Maj. Anthony E. Franks
Public Affairs Officer	Maj. Patricia Johnson
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Hitting the pavement



Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

Above — Marines from Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, hike from Marine Corps Training Area, Bellows, back to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, on the morning of Sept. 15. It took the Marines less than four hours to complete the hump.

Right — Lance Cpl. Kevin Neale, team leader, 3rd Squad, Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, cleans his weapon after the hike from Marine Corps Training Area Bellows back to K-Bay. The “America’s Battalion” warriors are training for an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner



Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

Lima Company, 3/3, prepares for Iraq, humps from Bellows to K-Bay

Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

In preparation for their upcoming deployment to Iraq, Marines and Navy hospital corpsmen assigned to Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, hiked from Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, the morning of Sept. 15.

The training was good for conditioning the Marines, preparing them for carrying gear longer distances while hardening up the feet, explained 1st Lt. Luke Lazzo, platoon commander, 2nd Platoon, Lima Company, 3/3.

An approximate total of 62 Marines, and hospital corpsmen, headed out to the field at Bellows on the morning of Sept. 14, where they took part in a security operations exercise and mounted patrols, before stepping off at 3 a.m. the next morning, for the long hike back to K-Bay.

“We ended training on Wednesday night before dark, so it would give the Marines the opportunity to rest before morning,” said the Rochester Hills, Mich. native.

They carried a sustained load, which is roughly everything that someone would need for a certain amount of time in the field.

It was the first real hike for approximately 20 Marines with Lima Company, according to Lazzo. On previous hikes, Marines carried lighter loads so they could acclimate to the tropical Hawaiian weather.

“This was my first hike with Lima Company. I’ve only been here for about a month and a half now,” said Pfc. Josh Sonnier, saw gunner, 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon, Lima Company, 3/3. “It wasn’t too bad. The hardest thing for me so far was the time we did the squad rushes on the range.”

Sonnier said he is looking forward to his first deployment with Lima Company.

“I’m pretty excited about it. I wanted to have the opportunity to go over there,” said the Sweet Lake, La. native. “I know the more experienced Marines are looking out for all of us new guys to make sure we don’t get hurt. They’re all pretty great.”

This was approximately the third hike for Lima Company within two months, and for some, it definitely seemed like the longest one, said Sgt. Rodrigue Jean-Paul, squad leader, 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon, Lima Company, 3/3.

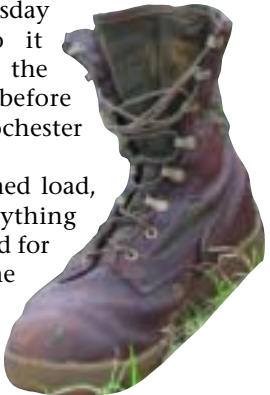
“The thing that was good about the hike was that this was the first one off base and we weren’t just going around in circles,” said the Queens, N.Y. native. “We actually went from a point A to a point B this time.”

Jean-Paul said there are approximately 14 new Marines in 2nd Platoon of Lima Company, and they all have been catching on to things quickly and are doing very well.

“They can do it all. They are bright, energetic and willing to learn,” said Jean-Paul. “I’m going to a place with these guys that I know they will have my back and I will have theirs. I have no worries when I get there.”

In the near future, there will be another battalion hike, which will be approximately 12 miles for the Marines and take place on base.

“The Marines did an outstanding job on the hike, there were no real problems that occurred,” said Lazzo. “It’s just good training.”



Above — Marines from Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, begin their hike from Marine Corps Training Area Bellows to K-Bay on the morning of Sept. 15. The Marines stepped off for their hike at 3 a.m. and finished in just less than four hours.

Left — Pfc. Josh Sonnier, SAW gunner, 2nd Platoon, Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, cleans his weapon after a hike from Marine Corps Training area Bellows to K-Bay. This was the first hike for Sonnier with Lima Company. Approximately 62 Marines and Navy hospital corpsmen completed the hike, carrying a sustained load. The battalion has other hikes planned for the near future.

Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

Born on the bayou

Sergeant rallies around support

Sgt. Joe Lindsay
Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER, BRIDGEPORT, Calif. — To most, the devastating images from television news reports of Hurricane Katrina that ravaged New Orleans and outlying areas with category five force, are just that — images.

For one Marine, Sgt. William Domangue, a substance abuse counseling officer and mortarman for 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Hurricane Katrina hits a little bit closer to home than that. A lot closer. In fact, the hurricane actually hit his home.

“I come from a town a ways down the road from New Orleans called Houma, Louisiana,” explained Domangue. “It’s a small town where people will wave to you from their porches as you drive by, even if they don’t know you.”

For Domangue, the hurricane was an especially stressful time, as almost all of his immediate family decided not to evacuate, but instead chose to ride out the brutal storm.

“My wife, Georgia, who is pregnant, and my three-year-old daughter, Abigail Mae, live with me in base housing on K-Bay (Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay), so I am thankful that they were out of harm’s way, but most of the rest of my entire family — parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles and cousins, just made a decision to stick it out,” said Domangue. “I guess you might say the Domangue’s are a hardheaded lot.”

Hardheaded, maybe — but also fiercely proud of their Louisiana heritage.

“The Domangue’s have lived in Louisiana as far back as anyone can remember,” commented Domangue. “It didn’t surprise me that none of my family evacuated. We rolled our sleeves up and prepared, instead.”

That preparation included installing generators in their homes, boarding windows, stockpiling food and water, and tying down just about everything.

“Right after the hurricane passed, by some miracle, the phone lines were open in Houma,



Lance Cpl. Stephen Kwietniak

Sgt. William Domangue, a substance abuse counseling officer and mortarman for 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, demonstrates the finer points of knot tying on the arm of one of his Marines. Knot tying is one of the skills Marines learn for use in rappelling exercises at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif., where 1/3 is currently training.

briefly, and I was able to call my family,” said Domangue. “Everyone had survived. Soon after, though, all the phone lines went dead, and we weren’t able to communicate for a week. Even though I was comforted by the knowledge that everyone was okay, I still had a lot of anxiety. That was a hard time. What really helped me get through it was the support I received from all the Marines at 1/3.”

That support was no accident.

“From the get go, our commanding officer, (Lt. Col. James Bierman), made sure that the 1/3 Marines from that region were identified so that we could put a support network in place for them,” said 1st Lt. Matthew Kralovec, 1/3 adjutant and a native of Fairfax, Va.

“Everyone has heard the phrase, ‘Marines take care of their own.’ But I’m here to tell you — it is more than just a saying. It is a reality.”

According to Lance Cpl. Theodore Gina, a 1/3 legal clerk from Union, N.J., letting the Marines know that some of their own were from the area affected by Hurricane Katrina showed extreme foresight by the command.

“I knew Sergeant Domangue was from the south, everybody did just by sound of his thick southern drawl,” said Gina. “I would describe Sergeant Domangue as ‘a Marines’ Marine.’ What I mean by that is that he doesn’t let anything get in the way of him leading his Marines. He is one tough Marine, and if he’s given a mission, you better believe it is going

to be accomplished.

“He’s not the type to wear his emotions on his sleeve, so by the command making the Marines aware of the situation, it gave us a chance, as his Marines, to reach out to him.”

According to Domangue, that type of support is the reason he has stayed in the Marine Corps for more than 11 years, and why, despite all the hardships and family separations, including two tours to Iraq and an impending deployment to Afghanistan, he will tell you that he wouldn’t want any other life.

“The way the Marines in 1/3 rallied behind me and my family, from officers to enlisted, meant a lot to me,” said Domangue. “I can’t describe what a good feeling it is to have the support not only of your peers but also of your command and the Marines who work under you.”

According to Kralovec, if there ever was a Marine who had earned the respect of his regiment, it is Domangue.

“Sergeant Domangue holds a staff NCO billet for a reason,” said Kralovec. “His experience level, with two combat tours in Iraq, and his level of maturity is such that we as officers consider him a ‘go to sergeant.’ As we conduct mountain-warfare training here in Bridgeport in preparation for our upcoming deployment to Afghanistan, it is no surprise to me that he has been named as a platoon sergeant. Simply put, he is a leader of Marines in the truest sense.”

Indeed, Domangue’s reputation as a leader extends to all ranks.

“Sergeant Domangue is a great leader and is a go to guy for advice,” said Lance Cpl. Nicholas Silvestri, a 1/3 administrative clerk and native of Freeport, N.J., with one combat tour in Iraq under his belt.

“He’s always helping out the younger Marines and guiding them by his example. Myself, and all his junior Marines really look up to him. Our hearts go out to Sergeant Domangue, his family back in Louisiana, and all the people whose lives have been turned upside down by Hurricane Katrina.”

POW, From A-2

American public to welcome him home.

After Desert Storm, Vietnam veterans were invited to march in a welcome-home parade along those returning from the Middle East. A lump grew in my throat as he expounded on how wonderful that was.

It sounded to me like he was pondering about buddies who stayed halfway around the world. He talked about seeing brothers years after he returned but doesn’t reveal whether they were KIAs, POWs or at one point MIA.

For about the last 20 years, he’s been present at most repatriation cere-

monies at Hickam Air Force Base. Once remains are recovered from various conflicts, they are flown to this island where Chief is waiting with an American flag and a POW/MIA flag. Then alongside other veterans, a joint-service color guard, dignitaries and members of the public, they honor the ultimate sacrifice made by others.

I asked him about the controversial pictures of those killed in action as they are brought back to America. With piercing blue eyes he looked at me and conveyed that it’s not right, not for all of America to see.

His conviction surprised me, and I think my reaction made him explain.

“The coming home for those boys and gals is a solemn and sacred event,”

he said in a low tone. “The scene of caskets draped with American flags should be reserved for families, friends and others who served with them.”

Yes, I thought, that makes sense, and pledged to keep talking to warriors like Chief and start writing about the legacy most Vietnam veterans would like us to have after they’re gone.

Before walking out, sporting 70s style bell-bottom pants, getting on his motorcycle, he tells me that honor and keeping his word are his top values.

You do that and everything will be fine, he said. Then he starts to tell me how they wouldn’t let them win that war. But I think I’ll save that topic for another time.

ALOHA, From A-1

how it benefits the whole base. Everyone is here to give information and help each other out.”

The event offered a variety of stations that included local businesses, nonprofit organizations and key staff representatives, said Kolton. Light refreshments were served throughout the evening and local businesses donated door prizes for visitor. Emphasis for the event was placed on the personal communication between the base residents and the service providers.

“This was a first time attending something like this for me and my family,” said Ensign Marc Tinaz,

officer-in-charge, Waterfront Operations. “I think what had a major impact for me was the diversity of all the represented communities. The event also provided me with a lot of information and available services that I was not even aware were available on base.”

According to MCCS, this is going to be a biannual event; however, no date has been set for the next fair.

“We love to have newcomers attend events like these,” said Kolton. “But it is just as important to get the attendance of people who have been here awhile. The event can provide new information to anyone.”



Lance Cpl. Roger L. Nelson

A Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay-based Marine sights in on a target on the base range. Beginning Oct. 1, Marines will have new course of fire, which includes new scoring and qualifying procedures.

Corps changes course of fire

Lance Cpl. Roger L. Nelson

Combat Correspondent

Marines, whether they’re an administrative clerk or an infantryman, must always be ready for the time when they may be needed to pick up a rifle and engage a target.

Starting Oct. 1, the beginning of fiscal year 2006, Marines will be required to pass a new course of fire to qualify with their rifle. The new course is intended to be more realistic to the combat situations that Marines may be faced with while deployed in today’s modern conflict.

“Another reason the course of fire is being changed is because the percentages do not represent Marine Corps standards,” explained Staff Sgt. Charles G. Rogan, chief primary marksmanship instructor, K-Bay Range, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. “On the current course, Marines must only get thirty-eight percent of their shots into the black. The new course will lift those standards, making the minimum qualification standards higher. Also, the Marine Corps wanted to alleviate any confusion to Marines from what they fire in boot camp to what they fire in the fleet.”

The course of fire Marines must pass has undergone two major changes, one being with the scoring of the targets. Marines will now be scored the same way they were when they were qualifying in boot camp.

The current known distance course of fire is based on a 65-point system. In order to qualify, a Marine must accumulate a minimum of 25 points.

The new course is now going to be called “Table one” and gives Marines the opportunity to score 250 possible points, but in order to qualify in this course of fire, the Marine must accumulate a minimum of 190 points.

“Marines will be given five more rounds for the two hundred-yard slow fire,” said Staff Sgt. Charles G. Rogan, chief primary marksmanship instructor, K-Bay Range, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. “Since Marines are getting the extra rounds, they’ll also be given an extra five minutes to get all of their shots off.”

With the current scoring system, Marines receive one point each time a shot impacts the black portion of the target, with the exception of the 200-yard-line slow fire, in which Marines who hit center mass of the black portion receive two points.

The new known-distance course targets will be marked with lines showing different areas on the target that count for different amount of points. Any shot that hits the target will count for two points, other areas will be marked on the target that will determine whether the shooter will receive three, four or fives points for their shot.

“With the new system, Marines can no

longer declare or qualify early,” said Rogan. “There will be no pre-qualification and Marines now have to qualify on Wednesday instead of Thursday, which means they’re only getting two days to actually site in their rifle.”

Another change being made is to the field-fire course. Field fire will now effect the Marines qualification score and whether the Marine qualifies or returns to his unit as “unqualified.”

The first day of table-two training, Marines will endure three hours of classroom training given by range personnel

and then do a practice run of the course, said Rogan.

“It’s good, because Marines will start taking the field-fire training more serious,” said

See RANGE, A-8

Speed Kills



Annually, approximately 32 percent of all motor vehicle traffic fatalities occur in crashes that are speeding-related, where at least one of the drivers involved exceeded the posted speed limit or was driving too fast for the prevailing conditions.

— National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

In memory of Richard Black
**MCCS deputy lived
life full of service**

William B. Lindsey
*Assistant Chief of Staff, Marine Corps
Community Services Hawaii*

It is with deep sadness to inform you of the death of Richard Black, deputy assistant chief of staff, MCCS Hawaii.

Richard Black was hired by MCCS Hawaii on May 30, 1998, as the Services and Contracting Division director. He was later promoted to deputy MCCS director, Sept. 22, 2002.

After completing high school in 1965, Richard entered the Army and attended Officers’ Candidate School at Fort Sill, Okla., and was commissioned a second lieutenant on Nov. 22, 1966. He served in Vietnam in 1967, and ended his active duty service career, Sept. 16, 1968. His military awards include the Army Commendation Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal “60” Device, Vietnam Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

After his military service, Richard attended college at the University of Utah, where he obtained a degree in psychology in 1971, and juris doctor, law, in 1973.

Richard practiced law as a staff prosecutor from 1973 to 1975 in Salt Lake City, and then joined Utah Legal Services Corporation as a staff attorney from 1975 to 1977. He later practiced law for Micronesia Legal Services, Palau



BLACK

and Yap offices, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands from 1977 to 1979.

In 1980, Richard joined the business world as a general manager of the Green Parrot Café for six years, then moved on as the general manager of Studebakers’ for seven years. He next became a district manager for Subway for two years.

Richard moved to Hawaii with his wife, Rhonda, in 1996. He was employed by the Navy Exchange as their acquisitions and contracting manager and

See BLACK, A-8

SCHUMACHER, From A-1

The noise elevated quickly, and for the next 10 hours it sounded like a whistling train going through a tunnel, said the 5-foot-11-inch tall South Dakota native. “We had to scream at each other to talk.”

No one slept through the night. For the next two days, Schumacher lent a hand wherever needed.

“I saw him put his hands on a small child’s head, pat an old man’s shoulder, and hug a terrified woman ‘til she was calm. He worked tirelessly for fifty hours, slept an hour and came back for more. He saw that the sick received care, the hungry were fed, and was always the first in line to work and the last to eat,” said Tinney.

When asking the silver-haired Marine what he did during that time, he simply said, “Not much.”

Schumacher said that he was equally impressed with the hotel staff. “The staff was amazing; they were calm and well organized.”

As the weather settled down, there was an opportunity for Schumacher to leave, but he hesitated.

Even though the hotel staff had arranged for everyone to evacuate, Schumacher wouldn’t leave until transportation was confirmed for all, according to Tinney.

When Schumacher was ready to go, he took Tinney; Tinney’s wife, Denise, and hotel employee Will Hammock with him. But, before getting out of town, they encountered a few obstacles. He drove around fallen trees, mounds of debris, downed power lines, and on sidewalks. In addition, they knew they could encounter shooters along the way.

The foursome made their way north and Schumacher’s generosity continued.

He could have stopped at the first airport, but insisted on taking them closer to home, said Tinney. He dropped off Will first in Jackson, Miss.; and continued to Memphis, Tenn., where the Tinneys had family waiting.

From there, he checked into a hotel and had what he said was the best shower of his life, then slept soundly for the first time in five days. The next morning he flew back to Hawaii where he found a message on his phone that informed him that the conference had been cancelled.

The impression Schumacher left on those he had helped prompted Tinney to contact Schumacher’s com-

mand and explain his version of events.

“I wish I was capable of articulating just what his presence meant to all of us. Louis’ calm manner reassured many frightened people,” said Tinney.

Back at work, Schumacher hesitantly talks about his ordeal, but fresh scars on his arms and healing blisters on both hands tell another story. For the Tinneys there’s no doubt that not all heroes are found in a battlefield.



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

Master Gunnery Sgt. Louis L. Schumacher stands in his office aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. Schumacher was in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina and, although he had a chance to evacuate, stayed to help.

Rockin’ the town



Photo Courtesy of Lisa Oshiro

The Marine Forces Pacific Band rocks the audience with their performance, Friday night, during Aloha Festivals Friday Downtown Mele. The medley was held on stage at Bishop Street, but the block party continued on to Smith Street. Also included in Friday's mele were performances by the Army, Navy and Air Force bands. Each of the bands added to the continued enjoyment of Honolulu's Aloha Festivals, which are the state's largest and the only statewide celebrations in the United States. The festivals, created in 1946, celebrates Hawaii's rich culture and history.

Salutes

“Golden Eagles” of Patrol Squadron 9 would like to recognize the following for their hard work and dedication to a commitment to excellence:

Senior Chief Steven Day, aviation electronics technician — Outstanding Military Volunteer Service Medal

Lt. j.g. Nicholas Kalkas — Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Lt. Cmdr. Danilo Espiritu — Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Petty Officer 3rd Class Gregory Williams, aviation warfare systems operator — Letter of Appreciation from Special Olympics

Airman Eric Normandin, aviation electrician's mate — Flag Letter of Commendation for Change of Command at the Wing

Airman Gregory Kramer, aviation warfare systems operator — Flag Letter of Commendation for Change of Command at the Wing

Airman Leroy Klasko, avionics technician — Flag Letter of Commendation for Change of Command at the Wing

Petty Officer 3rd Class Denise Masella, yeoman — Flag Letter of Commendation for Change of Command at the Wing

With services provided for the Special Olympics, CPRW-2, local elementary schools and operational contributions, these Sailors are raising the bar for what it takes to be a Golden Eagle.

(Units wanting to submit information for “Salutes” should send an e-mail to editor@hawaiimarine.com or call 257-8836.)

RANGE, From A-5

William E. Niepert, range coach and military policeman, Headquarters Battalion, Provost Marshal’s Office, Kaneohe Bay. “It’s the kind of training that will save a Marine’s life in combat, so it’s good that we’re starting to do more of it

and push it more on the Marines.”
For the new table-two portion, Marines will receive 80 rounds. They will wear a flak jacket and Kevlar helmet and shoot from the 25- and 50-yard lines. The Marines are required to hit 75 percent of their targets at 25 yards and 50 percent at 50 yards to qualify on the field-fire por-

tion.
“Another small change are the slings Marines will be required to use,” said Rogan. “Marines are going to have to start using three-point slings that support the weapon differently from the current slings. It’s a loop sling with a hasty sling concept. It will make it more difficult for non-infantry Marines who aren’t used to using the sling.”
Rogan, a San Carlos, Calif. native, explained how the positions Marines will be using would stay the same, with the exception of the standing.
“Currently, the Marine must be squared away at the target,” said Rogan. “But the new course will allow Marines to stand back or stand the way that is more comfortable to them. Also, Marines no longer have to utilize the ‘V’ grip on their rifle.”
“As for the changes, I think the field fire may make it a little more difficult,” said Niepert, a Mulberry Grove, Ill. native. “But all and all, I think the Marine Corps is going to see a rise in expert shooters because of the change of the known-distance course of fire and how it’s going to be scored.”
Rogan said he thinks Marines will not have a problem qualifying in three days, as long as they pay attention and allow themselves to learn.
“I think the first year will be hectic,” said Rogan. “Ranges aren’t set up yet, and everything isn’t ready. But after the first year, it will benefit the Marines a lot more — in the long run.”



Lance Cpl. Roger L. Nelson

Marines assigned to units aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, snap in on Sept. 16 at the K-Bay Range to prepare for the new course of fire, which begins Oct. 1. The new course will have changes in the known-distance and the field-fire portion of the course. Marines throughout the Corps will also be scored differently, going back to the boot camp style of using 250 points instead of 65.

BLACK, From A-6

food service manager from 1996 to 1998, at which time he joined Marine Corps Base Hawaii.
Richard Black loved his job of service for our Marines, Sailors, and family members. He loved the Marine Corps, and he loved people. He was highly respected by all who knew him. He continually demonstrated competence, commitment, honesty, loyalty and character in all of his dealings. He was a leader, a mentor and a friend.
Richard selflessly gave of his time beyond work. He was a member of the local Rotary Club, and he routinely gave of his time in support of Meals on Wheels for the homeless.
Richard is survived by his former spouse, Rhonda Black, his mother, and two brothers.
Marine Corps Community Services plans a memorial service for Black at the Base Chapel at 9 a.m., today.
We seek comfort for Richard’s family and friends, and for all of us who knew him in our professional lives. Please remember him in your thoughts and prayers, as we transition to life without Richard in our earthly presence.

A service will be held for Richard Black at the Base Chapel, today, at 9 a.m.

1/3, *From A-1*

all the challenging things that infantrymen normally do that much harder. There is a direct line between what we are doing here in Bridgeport and what we are going to be doing in Afghanistan.”

Some of those training evolutions include courses in mule packing, mountain medicine, high-altitude engineering, mountainous communications, steep earth and high-altitude movements, rappelling, gorge crossing, suspension traverse and heavy-equipment movement. That doesn’t even include the staple diet of assaults both up mountains and on mountaintops that 1/3’s Marines will be fed on a regular basis.

“When we leave here, I want the Marines to understand that operating in this type of environment requires a significant amount of preparation and planning,” said Bierman. “It is critical that they be physically fit and understand the basic skills required to operate in a high-altitude, mountainous environment where the weather is extreme — one of the most important elements being to take care of one another.”

One Marine who understands Bierman’s words perhaps as well as anyone here is Sgt. Jason Butler, 1/3 assistant operations chief and native of Salt Lake City, Utah, who is making his fifth appearance at MCMWTC.

“Bridgeport can be an intimidating place, especially when temperatures are hovering around zero,” said Butler, a fourth-generation Marine whose great-grandfather served in the Boxer Rebellion and World War I; his grandfather in World War II, and his father three tours of duty in Vietnam. “The whole goal is to get Marines out of their comfort zone and push them to the limit, both physically and mentally. But there’s a real feeling of satisfaction in leading the Marines and seeing them evolve from being apprehensive at the beginning of training to confident at the end of it.”

For some, that confidence may have come long before the Marine arrived in Bridgeport, since as many as 40 percent of the Marines in 1/3 are battle-tested veterans who served on the front lines of Fallujah in Iraq. There are also almost 100 Marines currently serving with 1/3 who previously deployed to Afghanistan with other battalions from 3rd Marine Regiment.

“A lot of us served in Iraq, and we are ready for the next fight and to take on the challenge to keep our country, and other innocent people of the world, free,” said Lance Cpl. Oved Gonzalez, who previously served with 1/3 as a mortarman in Fallujah, and who currently holds the billet of training noncommissioned officer for 1/3’s Headquarters and Service Company.

“Bridgeport is hard training, but we know it will be useful when we get to Afghanistan. We are biting at the chops to get over there, and there is such a feeling of pride with 1/3 that we are making a positive difference in the world. We are up to the challenge.”

But part of the challenge in deploying, whether it be to a training environment like Bridgeport or to a war zone in Iraq or Afghanistan, is leaving family behind, which is why Bierman is quick to point out that “the real heroes of the War on Terror are the family members of those serving in the name of freedom.”

1st Sgt. Gerard Calvin, 1/3 Charlie Company first sergeant and a native of Richmond, Va., said he couldn’t agree more.

“I can’t stress how important the support of our families back home is to morale,” said Calvin. “It’s what keeps us going.”

There is also another motivating factor, according to Staff Sgt. Philip Myers, 1/3’s administration chief for Headquarters and Service Company from Ewa Beach, Hawaii.

“Hopefully we’ll be the ones to get Osama Bin Laden,” said Myers. “And weed out as many Taliban and terrorists as we can in the process.”

In a similar vein, Butler offered an analogy of his own.

“Mountains can tame people pretty quick,” said Butler. “With this training we are receiving at Bridgeport, 1/3 will not be tamed in Afghanistan.”



Marines of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, hold training outdoors at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., on Sept. 13. The Lava Dogs are performing cold-weather training in the mountains of California in preparation for an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

Lance Cpl. Stephen Kwietniak

LAVA DOGS, From A-1

and Hawthorne to train Marines for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

“These Marines are out here training hard, earning their paychecks,” said Spurlock. “Afghanistan is not a golf course. The hills are steep, the weather is cold, the terrain is rugged, and the air is thin where we are headed. The training may be hard as we gear up for deployment, but it is necessary. We are getting our Marines exposed to these conditions so that they can get their minds mentally prepared and their bodies physically prepared for the rigors they will face in mountain combat. We, as leaders, are setting up 1/3’s Marines for success.”

Many of 1/3’s Marines, approximately 40 percent of the battalion, have served on the front lines of Fallujah and throughout Iraq, while others are deploying to Afghanistan for their second and third tours. Still, for Charlie Company, the vast number of their Marines, roughly 80 percent, joined the company straight out of SOI.

“No matter how outstanding and realistic the training, and this is some of the best and hardest I’ve seen in over twenty years in the Marine Corps, there is still only so much you can learn from books and training evolutions,” said 1st Sgt. Gerard Calvin, first sergeant, Charlie Company, 1/3, and a native of Richmond, Va., who already has two combat tours to Afghanistan under his belt. “Combat vets, regardless of rank, are invaluable as leaders when passing on their knowledge to the other Marines who haven’t seen action yet. Like I always tell the Marines, it’s not about you, it’s about the Marine to the left and right of you.”

Those words of wisdom resonate especially strong with Lance Cpl. Justin Snyder, a 1/3 fire-team leader with 3rd Platoon, Charlie Company. Snyder was a squad automatic weapon operator with 1/3 when the Marines first stormed Fallujah, in what has become, arguably, the most famous Marine Corps battle since Hue City during the Vietnam War. During the intense fighting, shrapnel, most likely from a hand grenade, tore into Snyder’s legs. It was days before the Las Vegas native told anyone of his wounds for fear of being taken off the frontlines. He was later awarded the Purple Heart.

“Vets from Fallujah, other parts of Iraq, and also Afghanistan, take what we learned, both good and bad, and pass it on to the guys,” said Snyder. “There is a lot to live up to being a Fallujah vet. We lost a lot of good Marines over there. I’m a reference point now, and it’s my responsibility to teach these guys what I know. But as much as these new Marines out of SOI are learning here, I’m learning too. This training, other than actual combat, is as good as it gets.”

During their weeklong field operation in the mountains, which officially ended late last night at 11:59 p.m., constant training in a variety of courses were conducted, including lane training, which involves steep earth and high-altitude movements, cliff assault climbing, rappelling, gorge and river crossings and knot-tying techniques. Also on tap during the evolution on a continuous basis were patrolling exercises, tactics, security, defensive and offensive maneuvers, communications, resupply techniques and terrain land navigation.

“Spending this week in the mountains conducting field ops is helping us gel as a platoon, a company, and a battalion,” said 1st Lt. Kevin Frost, platoon commander, 3rd Platoon, Charlie Company, 1/3, and a native of Zeeland, Mich., who, like many of those in 1/3, has previously served a combat tour in Iraq. “In the very short term, it is preparing us for the FEX (Battalion Field Exercise), but more importantly, it is giving the Marines an appreciation for the mountainous terrain and conditions that we will be facing in Afghanistan.”

According to Snyder, even more vital than the skills and knowledge of mountain warfare that the Marines are learning here, are the tight bonds and friendships the Marines are forming with one another.

“You’ve got to have that

strong bond and deep feeling of trust in the guy next to you,” said Snyder. “He holds your life in his hands just as much as you do his, so you gotta be tight. Camaraderie and a SAW are the two most important things in close combat as far as I’m concerned, from the perspective of a ‘grunt’ on the ground taking rounds.”

With one minute of sleep on the schedule, the Marines began their FEX evolution “this morning” at midnight, a culminating event involving the entire battalion where Marines put together everything they have learned in the mountains since arriving at the MCMWTC in Bridgeport on Sept. 13. The FEX is scheduled to

last four days, after which the Marines of 1/3 will be able to rest their heads on a warm rack instead of the cold ground, before spending a day cleaning gear and getting ready to depart, Wednesday, for more time in the field during a Combined Arms Exercise at Twentynine Palms, Calif.